THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Permission to use Foreign Exchange Held by Big Industrial Houses

2634. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had given permission to companies to use foreign exchange held by some of the big indurstrial houses during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details thereof, companv-wise; and

(c) the purpose for which these companies were permitted to use foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger or Amalgamation of Public Sector Banks

2635. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Banks Association, the Apex Body of Banking Industry proposed merger or amalgamation of 28 public sector banks and creation of only 12 banks with branches all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government have not received any proposal from Indian Banks' Association suggesting merger or amalgamation of 28 public sector banks and creation of only 12 banks with branches all over the country.

(b) to (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Regional Office of Oriental Insurance Company at Dehradun.

2636. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Regional Office of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited has been set up at Dehradun;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to open the proposed office at NOIDA instead of Dehradun; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Regional Office would start functioning at Dehradun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Oriental Insurance Company Limited has already its Regional Office at Lucknow which is looking after the entire Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration to open Regional Office of the Company at Dehradun.

Losses to Shipyrads

2637. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shipyards in the country are running incloss;

(b) if so, the names of shipyards which are running in loss and the loss incurred by them during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for the losses; and

(d) the steps taken during these years to make these shipyards economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) (Except Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay, Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited, Calcutta, other Public Sector Shipyards under Government of India are running in loss at present.

(b) The names of shipyards which are running in loss with details of losses incurred by these shipyards during each of the last three financial years are given below:-

S.No.	*Name of the Shipyard.*	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
			(Rs in crores)	
1.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited Visakhapatnam	46.68	79.03	78.35*
2.	Cochin Shipyard Limited, Cochin.	26.37	27.71	20.97
3.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd., Calcutta	2.86	5.18	4.47*
4.	Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation, Calcutta.	0.46	0.98	0.01*

* Provisional.

(c) The main reasons for the losses are:-

(i) The cost of contraction of ships is substantially higher than the sale price of ships.

(ii) Long time over-runs in completion of ships

(iii) High interest burden arising out of borrowings

(iv) Low productivity and overmanning.

(d) The following steps have been taken to make these shipyards economically viable:-

(i) Introduction of latest production